# RAJYA SABHA

*Tuesdays, the 25th April 1989/5th Vaisakha, 1911 (Saka)*

**The House met at eleven of the clock. Mr. Chairman in the Chair.**

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### इलैक्ट्रानिक एककों द्वारा अत्यधिक उत्पादन किये जाने पर रोक

*21. **श्री शांति त्यागी :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार इलेक्ट्रानिक एककों द्वारा उनकी लाइसेंसशुदा क्षमता की तुलना में अधिक उत्पादन करने पर रोक लगाने का विचार रखती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या इस संबंध में सरकार के निर्णय से इलेक्ट्रानिक माल के निर्यात पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ने की संभावना है ?

**विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा महासागर विकास, परमाणु ऊर्जा, इलेक्ट्रानिकी और अन्तरिक्ष विभाग में राज्य (मंत्री श्री के०आर० नारायणन) :** (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) यह प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

**श्री शांति त्यागी :** माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी की प्रेरणा से हमारे देश में इलेक्ट्रानिक उद्योग ने बड़ी प्रगति की है।

मेरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि सरकार का कोई इरादा इस उद्योग के अतिरिक्त उत्पादन पर रोक लगाने का नहीं है। लेकिन मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि यदि ऐसा है, तो सरकार ने कई इलेक्ट्रानिक उपकरणों, जैसे एस० के० डी० के सभी उपभोक्ता उपकरण, रेडियो डिस्पले मानीटर आदि जो उपकरण है इलेक्ट्रानिक के, वह खुली लाइसेंस आयात सूची से क्यों निकाल दिये हैं ?

इसी से से जुड़ा हुआ मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न है--मंत्री जी यह भी कृपया बताये कि इस उद्योग पर दी जाने वाली 15 प्रतिशत नकद मुआवजा इमदाद जिसको सी० सी० एस० कहते हैं, वह क्यों बंद कर दी गई हैं ? क्या उसके बंद करने की वजह से इलेक्ट्रानिक गुड्स के एक्सपोर्ट के ऊपर कुप्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा ?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Sir, may I first of all say that the cash compensatory allowance which was withdrawn in the Budget has now been restored, following representations from the industry. Therefore, that would not any longer act as any kind of disincentive. About the shifting of some items from the OGL to the restricted category, it would not in any way affect production or exports. In view of the foreign exchange problem that the country is facing today in the balance of payments, a very thorough scrutiny was made and it was thought that some kind of restraint should be imposed on indiscriminate import of electronic items. It is only to have a degree of control, not obstruction, that this transfer was made from OGL to the restricted category. We have introduced very simplified procedures for achieving this so that the industry would not face any sort of difficuly in importing items which are necessary for the growth of electronics.

**श्री शांति त्यागी :** सभापति जी, जब मंत्री जी सभी चीजों से इंकार कर रहे हैं, तो इसका कोई इलाज नहीं है। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार पब्लिक सेक्टर में सी० सी० आर० का उत्पादन करने पर विचार कर रही है, और यदि नहीं तो क्यों ?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Yes, Sir. The Government is proposing to start production of V.C.Rs. in the public sector. The Electronic Trade and Technology Corporation has been asked and they have presented a proposal for production of V.C.Rs. by them. This proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

**श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा** : सर, हमारी सरकार की पालिसी इलैक्ट्रोनिक्स उद्योग को एनकरेज करने की है, इलैक्ट्रोनिक कैपेसिटी जो हमारे देश की है उसको एन्करेज करने की है, लेकिन हमारे देश में बहुत ही स्मालर यूनिट्स इलैक्ट्रोनिक उद्योग के लगे हैं और जापान अभी 6 मिलियन कपेसिटी का एक ग्लास ट्यूब का कारखाना लगाने जा रहा है और अभी हमारे देश में एक मिलियन टन का है और जापान अभी 6 मिलियन टन का लगाने जा रहा है, लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान की कैपेसिटी बहुत कम देखते हुए इसकी जो गुड्ज हैं वे वर्ल्ड मार्केट में कंपीटीटिवली बहुत अच्छी उतरें और इकोनोमिक दृष्टि से भी हमारी जो गुड्स हैं वह सस्ते रहे तो इसके बढ़ावे के लिए सरकार क्या करने जा रही है, क्या इंसेंटिव देने जा रही है जिससे कि कैपेसिटी बढ़े और हमारी गुड्स कंपीटीटिव मार्केट में ज्यादा अच्छे और सस्ते रहें ?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Yes, it is true that larger production will improve quality as well as standard of electronic products in the country. We are trying to encourage large-scale production in certain items such as T.V. tubes, V.S.Rs. etc and not giving them to small-scale manufacturers. As regards incentives for electronic production, right from 1985 when the integrated policy measures on electronics were announced, a series of incentives have been provided Licences were issued very liberally for imports and also upward growth of electronics, once licences were issued, was allowed very liberally. Expansion was allowed liberally. Of course, there was a normal 25 per cent excess of licensing capacity which a unit could produce. There was also the programme for re-endorsement of increased capacity. Together with these and also the promotion of R&D in the electronic industry the condition that when new technology is involved, steps should be taken by the industry for the absorption of technology and for further development of technology—the production has increased. As a matter of fact, that electronic industry has shown a growth rate of about 34 per cent since 1983 and from less than 2000 crores of rupees, the production today is about 7085 crores of rupees worth. So there has been a very significant, almost spectacular, increase in electronic production in the country.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has a scheme for setting up new electronic units in different parts of the country. In this connection, I would like to state that since the late Prime Minister's time, the West Bengal Government has been requesting the Central Government for setting up electronic units in the Salt Lake Industrial units Zone in West Bengal. I would like to know whether the Government is considering that demand of the State Government.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: These electronic units are actually set up by the State Governments. What the Union Government does is to provide incentives and other assistance whenever necessary and possible. As far as the zones are concerned, we have set up a number of export zones as electronic zones in the country. I think West Bengal has a electronic complex though not an export zone. The State Government has to come forward with a proposal and try to implement it. We can only give help for that as it is being done by other State Governments.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, 22 applications are lying with the Central Government. Licences are yet to be given. Can the Minister reply whether the licences for these electronic units are being given by the Central Government?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: If the hon. Member could kindly give me a list of the items concerned, I shall look into it and provide him the information.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will look into it.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: What about the previous promise about the Salt Lake complex?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will look into it.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this electronics industry has got a two-fold problem. One is the excess imports of many items which are being manufactured in our country, including parts. Can the Minister enlighten us whether they have a policy to save the local industry? Secondly, Sir, because of heavy demand of electronic items, a large amount of sub-standard and defective electronic goods are coming into the market as a part of this excessive output. What steps the Government has taken to check the manufacture of such products? And what measures has the Government taken to make sure that sub-standard electronic goods are not exported as this could damage India's long-term prospects in this lucratic business?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Sir, as far as imports are concerned, we do not allow imports of such electronic items as are made in the country, for example, computers and similar items which are made in the country. We do not encourage, we do not allow the import of such items. So, items which are imported are those which are not available in this country through indigenous production or sometimes which are urgently necessary for some particular projects to be implemented in time. Otherwise, there is no unnecessary or excessive imports of electronic items. As far as the quality of the goods is concerned, we are constantly trying to improve the quality. In fact, we have set up a series of laboratories in different parts of the country for checking and calibrating the qualities of goods which are produced, and through this we are trying to establish certain standards in the electronic goods being produced in India. And it is only this way, by providing testing and calibration facilities and also through research and development for which we are setting up a number of centres in different parts of India, we can improe the quality of electronic production. So, the Government is fully aware of this problem and are trying to do everything possible to step up the quality of electronic production in the country.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister while replying to the main question said, "No, Sir. There is no ban.' However, Sir, with the recent hike in the duties on electronics, there has been a problem with the electronics units, specially the small units. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister what concrete steps will be taken by the Government to encourage electronic production which alone can take us effectively to the 21st century. Instead of encouraging this, there is a duty hike in electronic items as a result of which there is a great agitation on the part of the electronic units in the country. I would like to know what steps will be taken by the Government?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Sir, the duties which are imposed in the Budget are of a modest nature. In

fact, the assessment was that the electronic industry has made some good progress and is making good profits and, therefore, a bit of it should come to the nation as a whole through new duties and excise duties. But the manufacturers have represented very strongly about these things. In regard to some of these items, we have also felt that there is a justification for reconsideration. I think, the whole matter is now with the Government. And the question whether any particular duty is inhibiting the production will be very seriously considered by the Government.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman Sir, I am happy that the hon Minister while replying to the supplementary of Shri Tyagi has said that production this year will be under public sector also. But I would like to know from the Government at what stage this consideration is being done at present. There are several levels. It may be at the level of the Secretary or it may be at the level of the Joint Secretay. It may come the State Minister and then the Prime Minister and then it will go to the Investment Committee. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when this proposal had come and at what stage its consideration is being done, whether it is under active consideration or at usual consideration?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Well, I can assure the hon. Minister that it is under active consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Subramanian Swamy.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, electronics is an....

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, has he changed the party? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He has taken seat by the side of Mr. Suresh Kalmadi.... (*Interruptions*). With the change of place he has changed his colour.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: One telephone call from Moscow and they will do a somersault. (*Interruptions*). In 1942 they changed from opposing the war to supporting it on one telephone call. So do not agitate me on this. It does not matter.... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Does he know what happened in 1942?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I read uncensored books unlike them. They read only Pravada and Izvestia, which give a distorted picture every time.

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Subramanian Swamy, did you get a call from Race Course Road? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: That is at least India. I do not know from where you get your calls.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: You are interested in Race Course Road.. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us come to electronics.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, electronics is a labour-intensive industry with vast linkages in the economy and I am surprised to see this artificial sense of complacency in the Minister when he says that in value terms electronics production grew up by 24 per cent. Japan went ahead of the United States because its electronics workers had much lower wages than in America. And today South Korea and Singapore have similarly gone ahead. Where the Government of India should have used electonrics as an engine of growth, I see only complacency here. I would like to know from the Minister whether they have

any plans to accelerate the rate of growth of electronics by the year 2000. What concrete plans they have if they are not stopping the production, and then what are they doing to accelerate it?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Sir, there is actually no complacency. It is a very objective fact that electronics production has increased in India, not only in value terms, but in very objective concrete terms. If anybody would look around, he would see the role played by electronics in the economy today. As far as the rate growth is concerned, the hon. Member must be aware that we have laid a target of Rs. 18,000 crores worth of electronics production by the year 1990. And I think we are well on the way of achieving this target. And beyond that we have set in motion several programmes for production of highly sophisticated electronics equipment, whether it is in communication, whether it is in defence, whether it is in CAD and various other applications of semiconductor applied technologies, they have marched almost on a broad front by selecting various sophisticated sectors at the same time, so that we do not have not only electronics for service sector or production sector, but even we have in agriculture, commerce, railways, airlines, we are also developing highly complex computers, like paraliel computing electronic automatic switches in comemunicaitions and in various field of crucial importance to the nation in electronic technology, we have not only planned, but taken particular action.

[*The question (Shri Ram Awadhesh Singh) was absent for answer vide cols 27-28 infra*].

**Expert committee's report on computer virus**

*23. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3176 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee set up by the Department of Electronics to look into the Computer virus problem and its remedies has since submitted its report to Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The Expert Committee set up on 25th March, 1989 by the Department of Electronics to make a study of the problems relating to 'Computer Viruses' and make suitable suggestions for its remedy, is yet to submit the report to the Government. The Committee is to submit its report within a period of two months.

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: My question is based on an Unstarred Question answered on 28th March last. That time also, the answer was that a Committee had been set up. Now, the Minister gives a date, that is, 25th March. I was under the impression that the Committee was appointed long ago before the Minister answered the previous question. Sir, that Unstarred Question related to computer virus in Visakhapatnam. Sir, Visakhapatnam is a fast developing city and there is a big computerisation work in that city. But this problem of computer virus has come in the way of computerisation. Havoc created by computer virus is a serious matter and the Government, it seems, is taking it in a routine course. I want to know from the Goernment whether the Government is serious on obtaining a report from the committee of experts within two months or they will take it in a routine way and